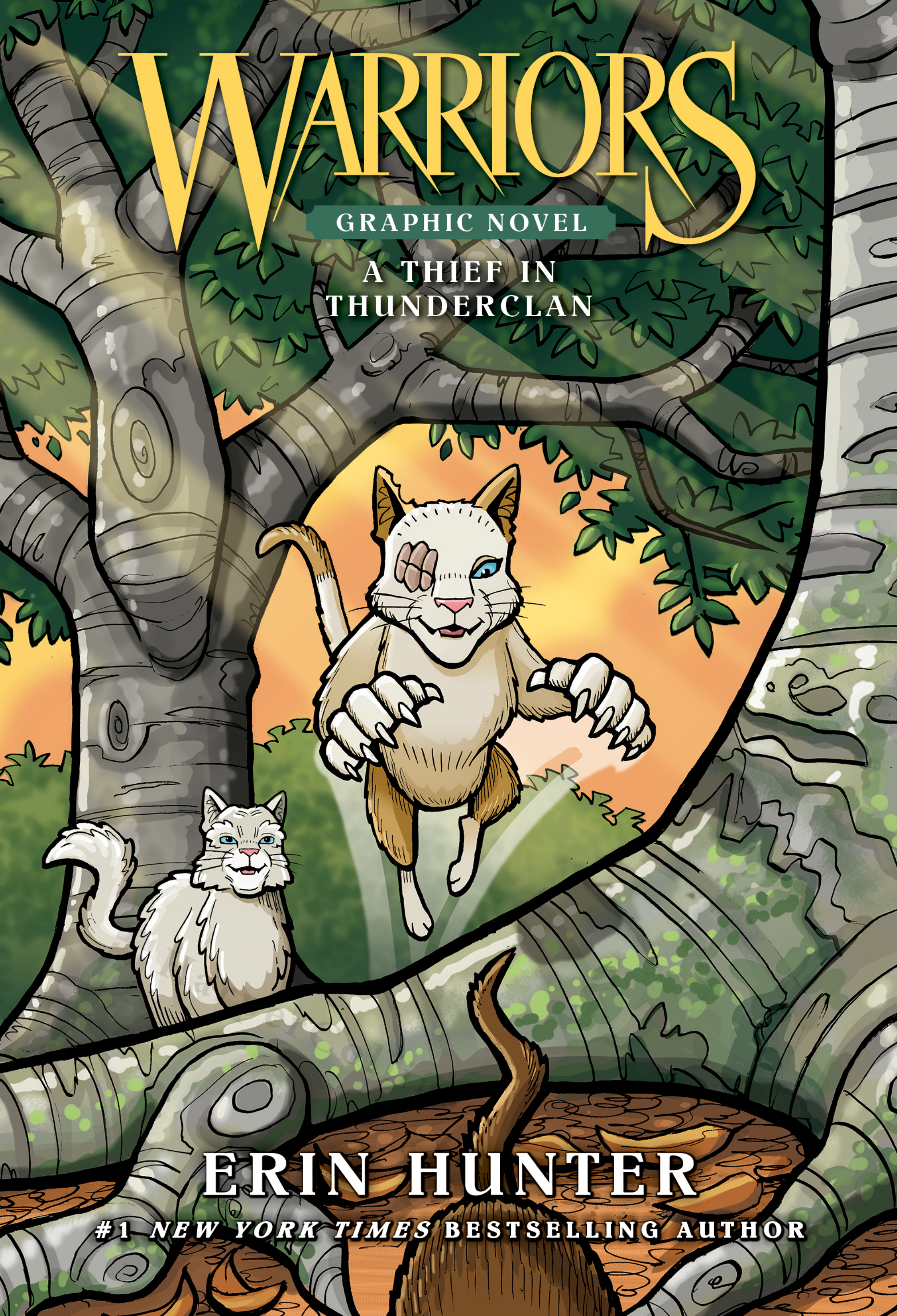

WARRIORS
GRAPHIC NOVEL
A THIEF IN THUNDERCLAN
ERIN HUNTER
#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

WARRIORS
A THIEF IN THUNDERCLAN

CREATED BY
ERIN HUNTER

WRITTEN BY
DAN JOLLEY

ART BY
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HARPER alley
An Imprint of HarperCollins*Publishers*

WARRIORS

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Graystripe's Adventure
Ravenpaw's Path
SkyClan and the Stranger
A Shadow in RiverClan
Winds of Change
Exile from ShadowClan

Tigerstar and Sasha #1: Into the Woods
Tigerstar and Sasha #2: Escape from the Forest
Tigerstar and Sasha #3: Return to the Clans
The Rise of Scourge



HarperAlley is an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

A Thief in ThunderClan

www.harpercollinschildrens.com
ISBN 978-0-06-324022-3 — ISBN 978-0-06-324024-7 (pbk)
23 24 25 26 27 GPS 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First Edition

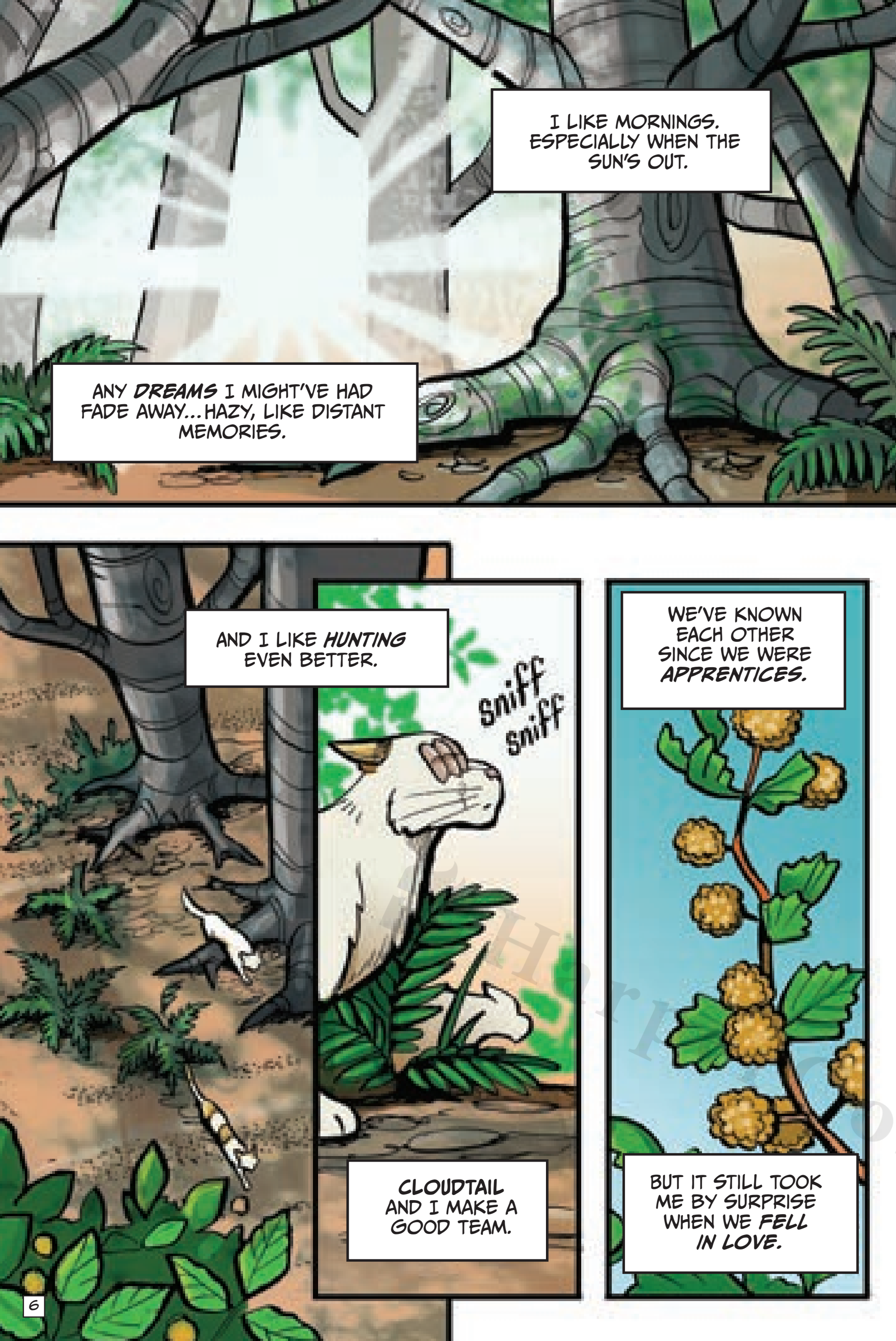

THE DREAM ISN'T ALWAYS THE SAME.
SOMETIMES I STAND AND FIGHT.
PACK PACK
MOST TIMES I *RUN.*
KILL KILL


BUT SWIFTPAW...
...SWIFTPAW *ALWAYS* DIES.
KILL
KILL
PACK
PACK
AND NO MATTER WHAT I DO...


...RUN AWAY, OR STAND AND FIGHT...
...IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.

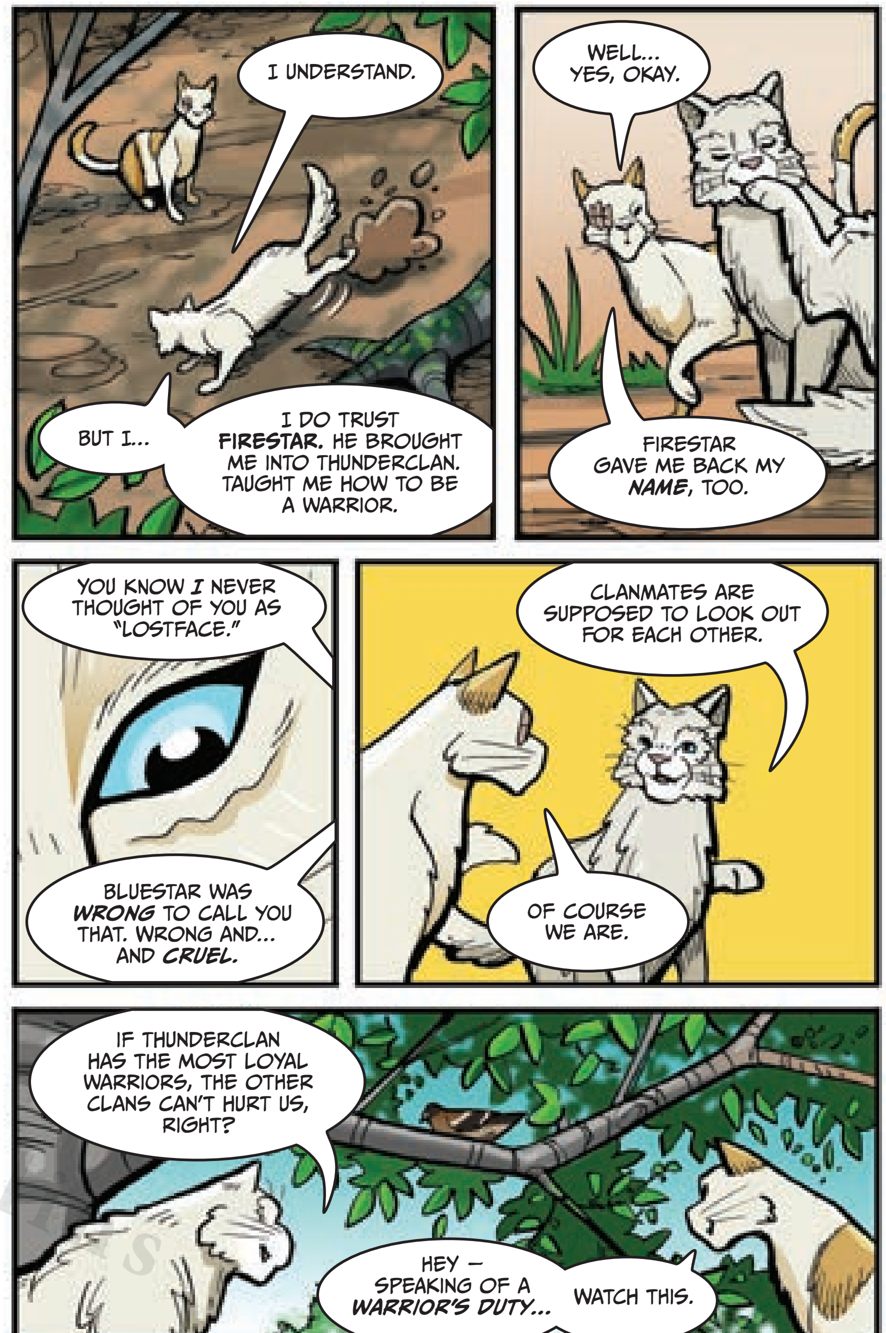

MY NAME IS BRIGHTHEART.
I'M A WARRIOR OF THUNDERCLAN.
THOUGH, SINCE THE ATTACK...
...I'M NOT ALWAYS SURE WHAT THAT MEANS.
WOULD YOU KEEP IT DOWN?
SOME OF US ARE TRYING TO SLEEP.


BRIGHTHEART?
YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH. I JUST...
I HAD THE DREAM AGAIN.
I'M NEVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO FORGET, AM I?

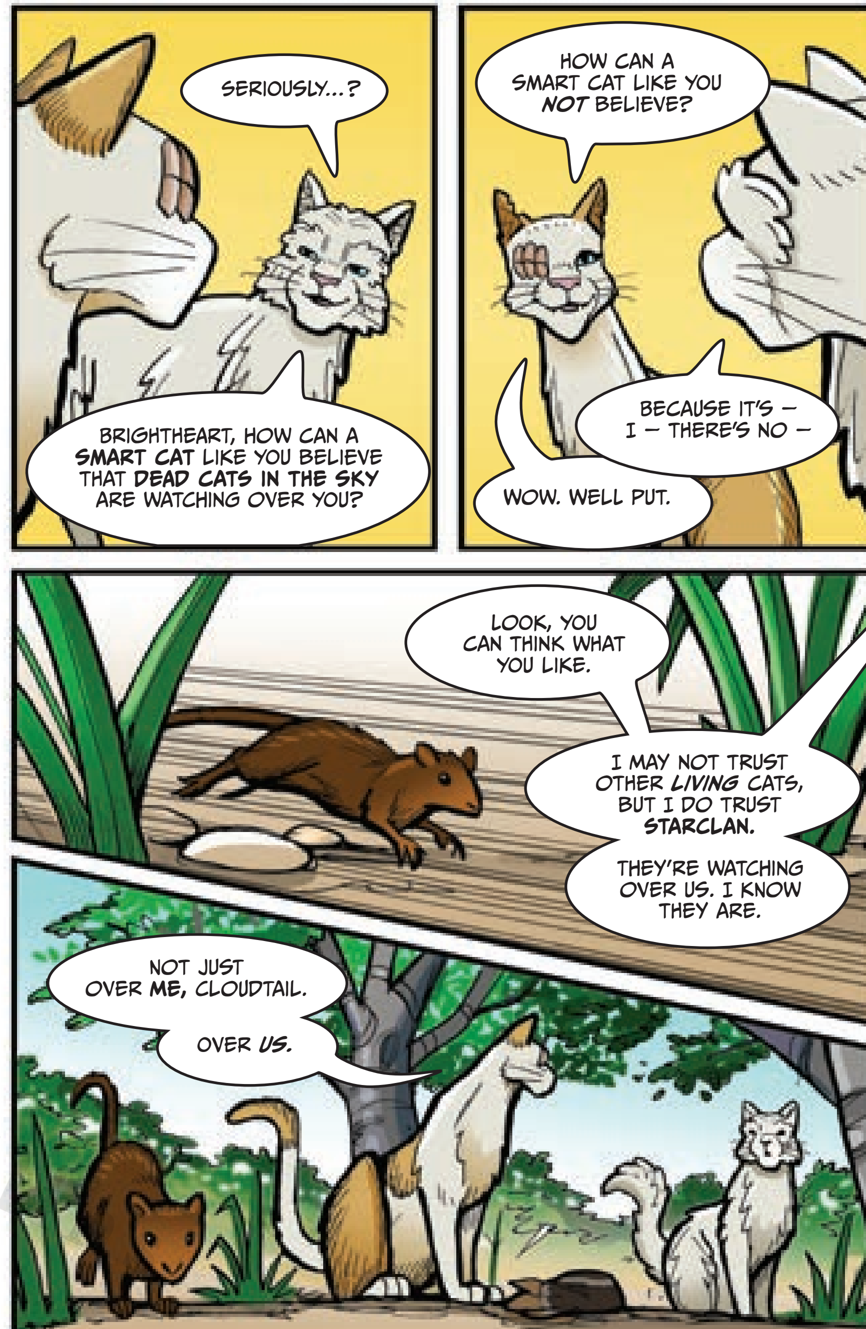

I LIKE MORNINGS. ESPECIALLY WHEN THE SUN'S OUT.
ANY *DREAMS* I MIGHT'VE HAD FADE AWAY...HAZY, LIKE DISTANT MEMORIES.
AND I LIKE *HUNTING* EVEN BETTER.
sniff sniff
CLOUDTAIL AND I MAKE A GOOD TEAM.
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE WE WERE *APPRENTICES.*
BUT IT STILL TOOK ME BY SURPRISE WHEN WE *FELL IN LOVE.*


YOU WANT THAT ONE?
NO, YOU CAN TAKE IT.
WELL, YOU CAN *TRY* TO TAKE IT, ANYWAY.
OH, YOU'RE DOUBTING ME NOW, HUH?
JUST WATCH AND LEARN!


SEE?
JUST LIKE THAT!
ABOUT YOUR DREAM — I'M, UH...I HATE IT THAT YOU HAVE TO KEEP RELIVING EVERYTHING. WITH THE DOGS, I MEAN.
AT LEAST NOTHING LIKE THAT WILL EVER HAPPEN AGAIN.
OH? WHAT MAKES YOU SO CERTAIN ABOUT THAT?
W-WELL ... IT WAS TIGERSTAR WHO LURED THE DOGS ONTO THUNDERCLAN TERRITORY. AND HE'S DEAD NOW.
THAT'S TRUE.
BUT IT'S ALSO TRUE THAT TIGERSTAR WAS THUNDERCLAN'S DEPUTY...
...AND BOTH SHADOWCLAN AND RIVERCLAN FOLLOWED HIM INTO BATTLE. AGAINST US.
REMEMBER *THAT?*
IF A CAT WE ONCE ***TRUSTED*** COULD DO SOMETHING THAT ***AWFUL...***
I'M SORRY, IT'S JUST HARD TO TRUST ***ANY*** CAT NOW.


I UNDERSTAND.
BUT I...
I DO TRUST **FIRESTAR.** HE BROUGHT ME INTO THUNDERCLAN. TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE A WARRIOR.
WELL... YES, OKAY.
FIRESTAR GAVE ME BACK MY ***NAME***, TOO.
YOU KNOW ***I*** NEVER THOUGHT OF YOU AS "LOSTFACE."
BLUESTAR WAS ***WRONG*** TO CALL YOU THAT. WRONG AND... AND ***CRUEL.***
CLANMATES ARE SUPPOSED TO LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER.
OF COURSE WE ARE.
IF THUNDERCLAN HAS THE MOST LOYAL WARRIORS, THE OTHER CLANS CAN'T HURT US, RIGHT?
HEY — SPEAKING OF A ***WARRIOR'S DUTY...***
WATCH THIS.


CHEEP!
NICE!
THANK YOU, STARCLAN...
...FOR THIS PREY.


SERIOUSLY...?
BRIGHTHEART, HOW CAN A **SMART CAT** LIKE YOU BELIEVE THAT **DEAD CATS IN THE SKY** ARE WATCHING OVER YOU?
HOW CAN A SMART CAT LIKE YOU ***NOT*** BELIEVE?
BECAUSE IT'S — I — THERE'S NO —
WOW. WELL PUT.
LOOK, YOU CAN THINK WHAT YOU LIKE.
I MAY NOT TRUST OTHER ***LIVING*** CATS, BUT I DO TRUST **STARCLAN.**
THEY'RE WATCHING OVER US. I KNOW THEY ARE.
NOT JUST OVER **ME,** CLOUDTAIL.
OVER ***US.***

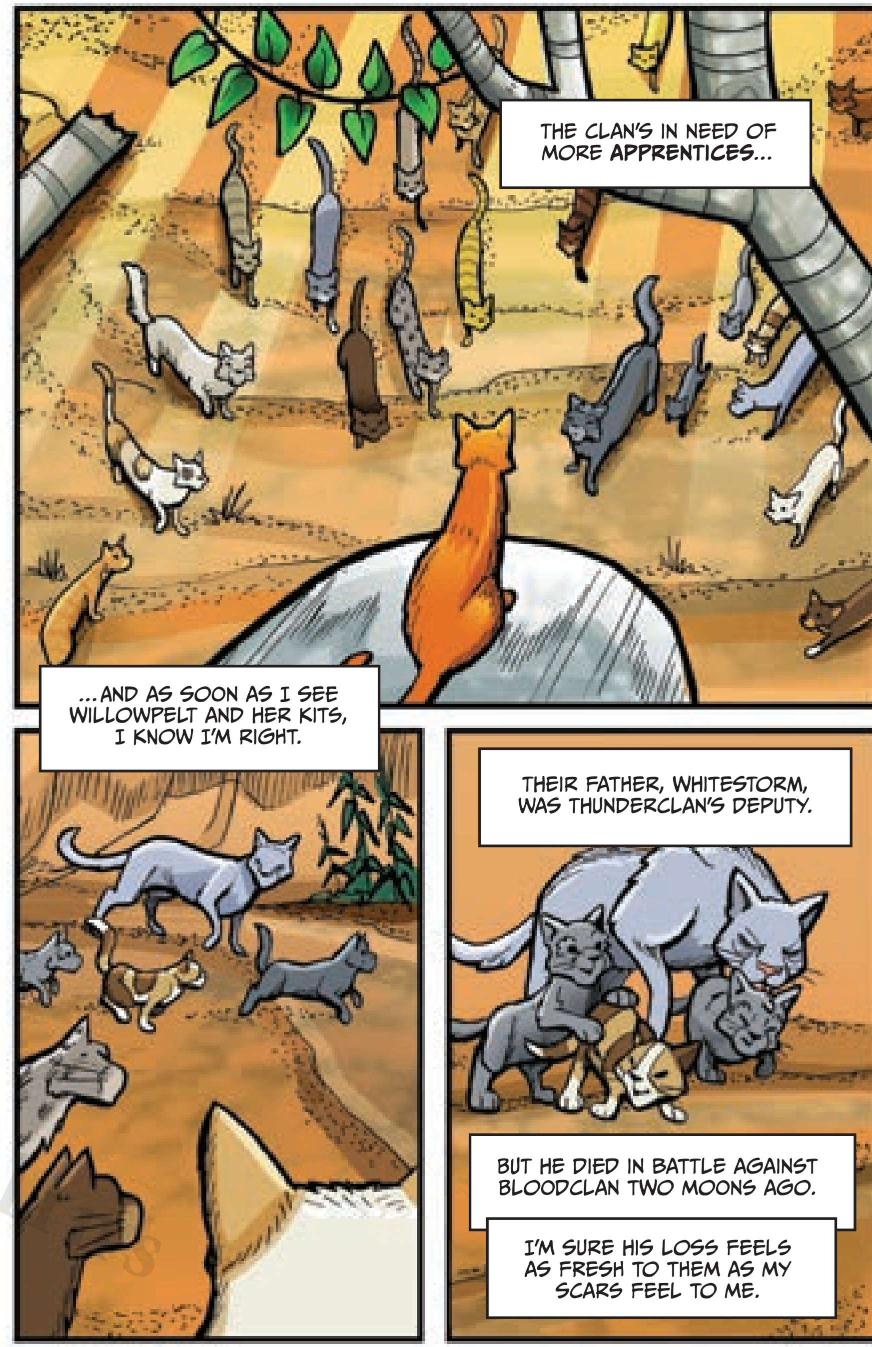

THUMP!
GOTCHA!
WHOA... THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD'VE SEEN THAT MOUSE.
BUT YOU DIDN'T EVEN HESITATE!
A WARRIOR WHO CAN'T CATCH A MOUSE BY SCENT AND SOUND ALONE...
ISN'T REALLY TRYING.


YEAH, I GUESS.
I'M STILL THE BEST HUNTER IN THE CLAN, THOUGH.
NOW WHO'S DREAMING?
HEY!
IT FEELS GOOD TO LAUGH. ESPECIALLY WITH CLOUDTAIL.
I DON'T GET TO DO IT OFTEN ENOUGH.


FEELS GOOD TO COME **HOME**, TOO.
GOOD HUNTING TODAY, HUH?
HI, BRIGHTHEART! CLOUDTAIL!


SPEAKING OF CLAN DEPUTIES WE CAN TRUST...
HELLO, **GRAYSTRIPE.**
CLOUDTAIL. BRIGHTHEART.
WE CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON YOU TWO TO BRING BACK PLENTY OF PREY, CAN'T WE?
JUST DOING WHAT WARRIORS ARE SUPPOSED TO DO!
NO NEED TO BE SO MODEST!
HI, CLOUDTAIL!
BRIGHTHEART! GOOD HUNTING!
THAT'LL BE TWO OR THREE GOOD MEALS FOR SOME CAT.
YEAH — AND I JUST GOT **REALLY** HUNGRY.
WANT TO SHARE A VOLE?
THAT SOUNDS LOVELY, YES, THANKS.


HANG ON.
LOOKS LIKE OUR MEAL'S GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT.
LET ALL CATS OLD ENOUGH TO CATCH THEIR OWN PREY GATHER HERE BENEATH THE HIGHROCK FOR A CLAN MEETING.
I'M PRETTY SURE I KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.


THE CLAN'S IN NEED OF MORE **APPRENTICES**...
...AND AS SOON AS I SEE WILLOWPELT AND HER KITS, I KNOW I'M RIGHT.
THEIR FATHER, WHITESTORM, WAS THUNDERCLAN'S DEPUTY.
BUT HE DIED IN BATTLE AGAINST BLOODCLAN TWO MOONS AGO.
I'M SURE HIS LOSS FEELS AS FRESH TO THEM AS MY SCARS FEEL TO ME.


FINALLY!
NOW I DON'T HAVE TO BE THE **ONLY** APPRENTICE ANYMORE!
NEITHER CLOUDTAIL NOR I HAVE EVER MENTORED AN APPRENTICE BEFORE.
I HOPE WE GET CHOSEN!
THREE THUNDERCLAN KITS HAVE REACHED THE AGE OF SIX MOONS...
...AND ARE NOW READY TO BECOME APPRENTICES.
BEING A MENTOR WOULD BE **AMAZING.**


SOOTKIT, FROM THIS DAY ON, UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR WARRIOR NAME, YOU WILL BE KNOWN AS SOOTPAW.
AND YOUR MENTOR WILL BE LONGTAIL.
SORRELKIT, FROM THIS DAY ON, UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR WARRIOR NAME, YOU WILL BE KNOWN AS SORRELPAW.
AND YOUR MENTOR WILL BE SANDSTORM.
OOH — SANDSTORM AND I WERE BOTH WHITESTORM'S APPRENTICES!
DOES THIS MEAN I'M NEXT? IT WOULD BE SUCH AN HONOR TO MENTOR ONE OF WHITESTORM'S KITS!
RAINKIT, FROM THIS DAY ON, UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR WARRIOR NAME, YOU WILL BE KNOWN AS RAINPAW.
AND YOUR MENTOR WILL BE...

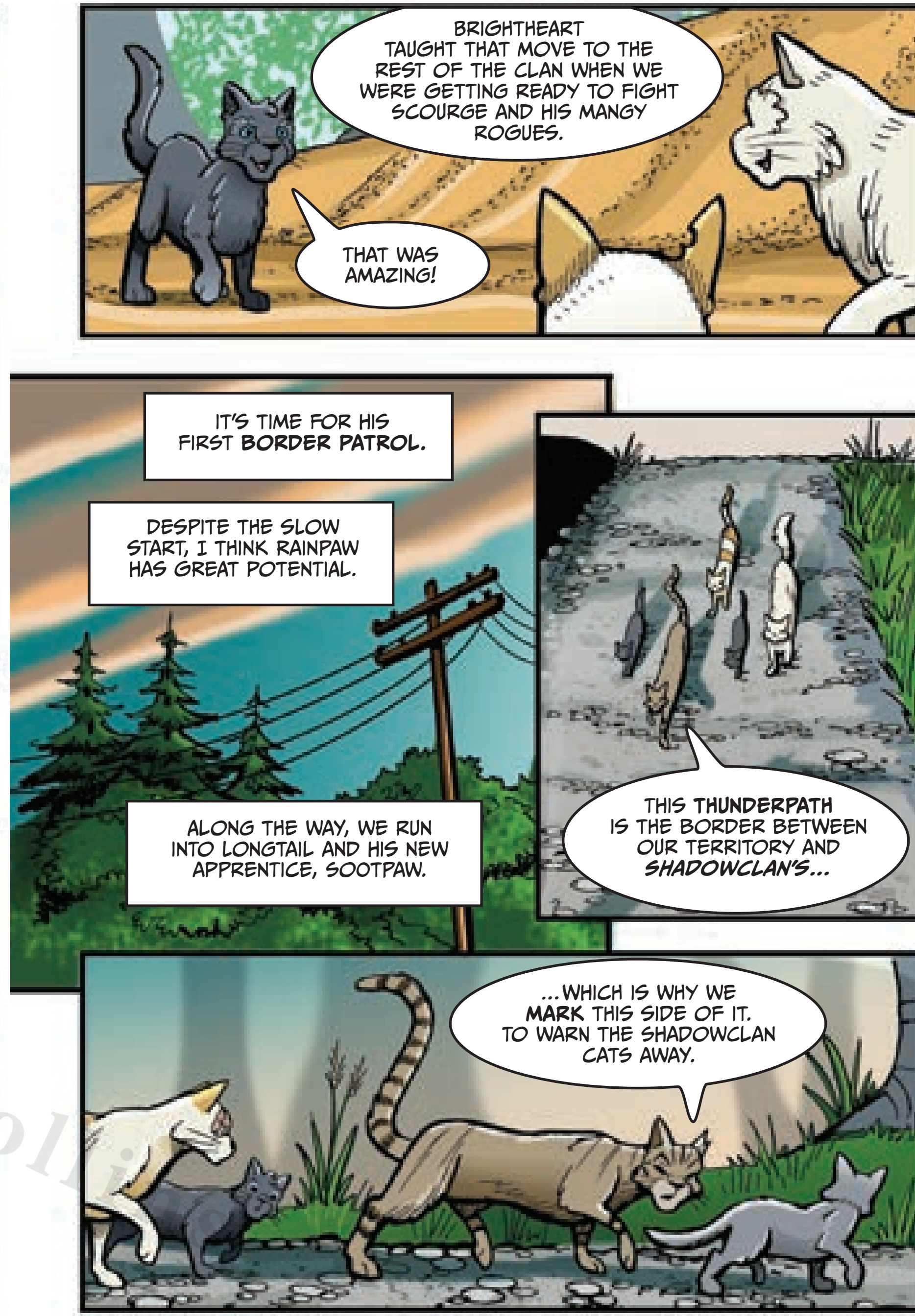

...CLOUDTAIL.
I HOPE YOUR MENTORS WILL PASS DOWN ALL THAT THEY KNOW TO YOU.
DID HE —
DID HE SAY *ME?*
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T BE DISAPPOINTED.
AND I KNOW IT'S NOT FAIR OF ME TO QUESTION FIRESTAR'S JUDGMENT, EITHER.
SO THIS IS SOMETHING I'LL KEEP TO MYSELF.
THE **LAST** THING I WANT TO DO IS MAKE CLOUDTAIL FEEL LIKE I'M ***RESENTFUL.***
BESIDES, CLOUDTAIL LOOKS SO *HAPPY.*

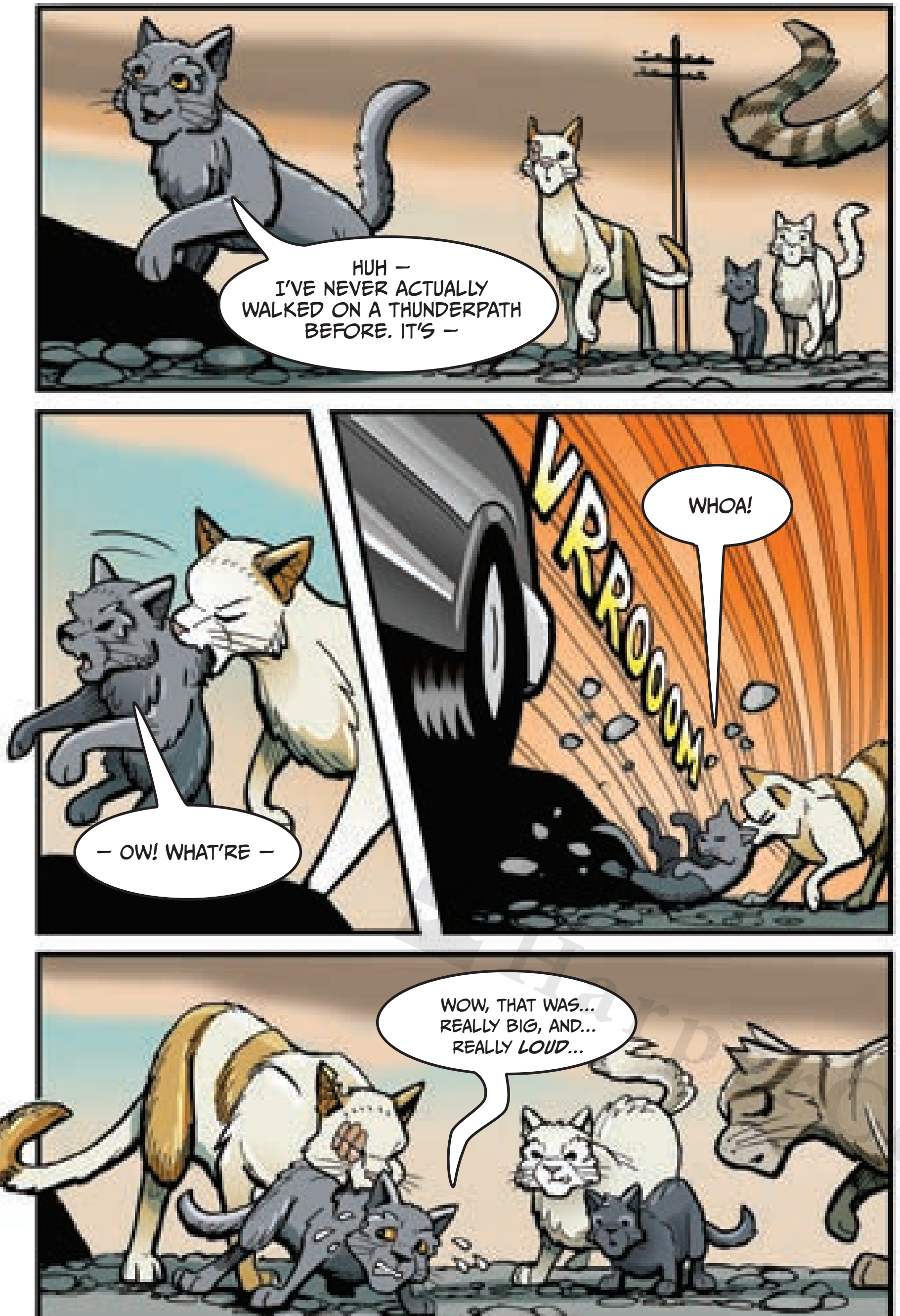

SOOTPAW!
SORRELPAW!
RAINPAW!
THIS IS GOING TO BE GREAT!
FIRESTAR WAS ***MY*** MENTOR — AND I'LL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING HE TAUGHT ME!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! MY OWN ***APPRENTICE!***
YOU'LL BE GREAT. HE'S LUCKY TO HAVE YOU.


HEY, YOU KNOW THIS ISN'T ANYTHING AGAINST YOU, RIGHT?
AND FERNCLOUD'S KITS WILL BE SIX MOONS SOON ENOUGH — I'M SURE YOU'LL GET TO MENTOR ONE OF THEM.
YEAH, MAYBE. WE'LL SEE.
WELL, UNTIL THAT HAPPENS... I COULD REALLY USE YOUR HELP WITH RAINPAW.
I WANT TO TRAIN HIM RIGHT — AND I KNOW HOW GOOD A TEACHER YOU ARE.
WILL YOU MENTOR HIM WITH ME?
HMMMM...
"OF COURSE I WILL. TOGETHER WE'LL MAKE RAINPAW INTO A REAL THUNDERCLAN WARRIOR!"
SEE, YOU DON'T WANT TO LET PREY SPOT YOU, SO YOU STAY AS LOW AS YOU CAN.


LIKE THIS?
THAT'S A GOOD START! WE'LL WORK ON IT.
WARRIORS HAVE TO LEARN TO FIGHT AS WELL AS TO HUNT—
AND THE FIRST THING TO MASTER IS A GOOD SWIPE.
YOU PLANT YOUR OTHER PAWS, REACH WAY BACK, POP ALL YOUR CLAWS OUT, AND—
THUD
DID I DO IT?
THAT WAS...
A GOOD START! RIGHT?
RIGHT!
WE'LL WORK ON IT.

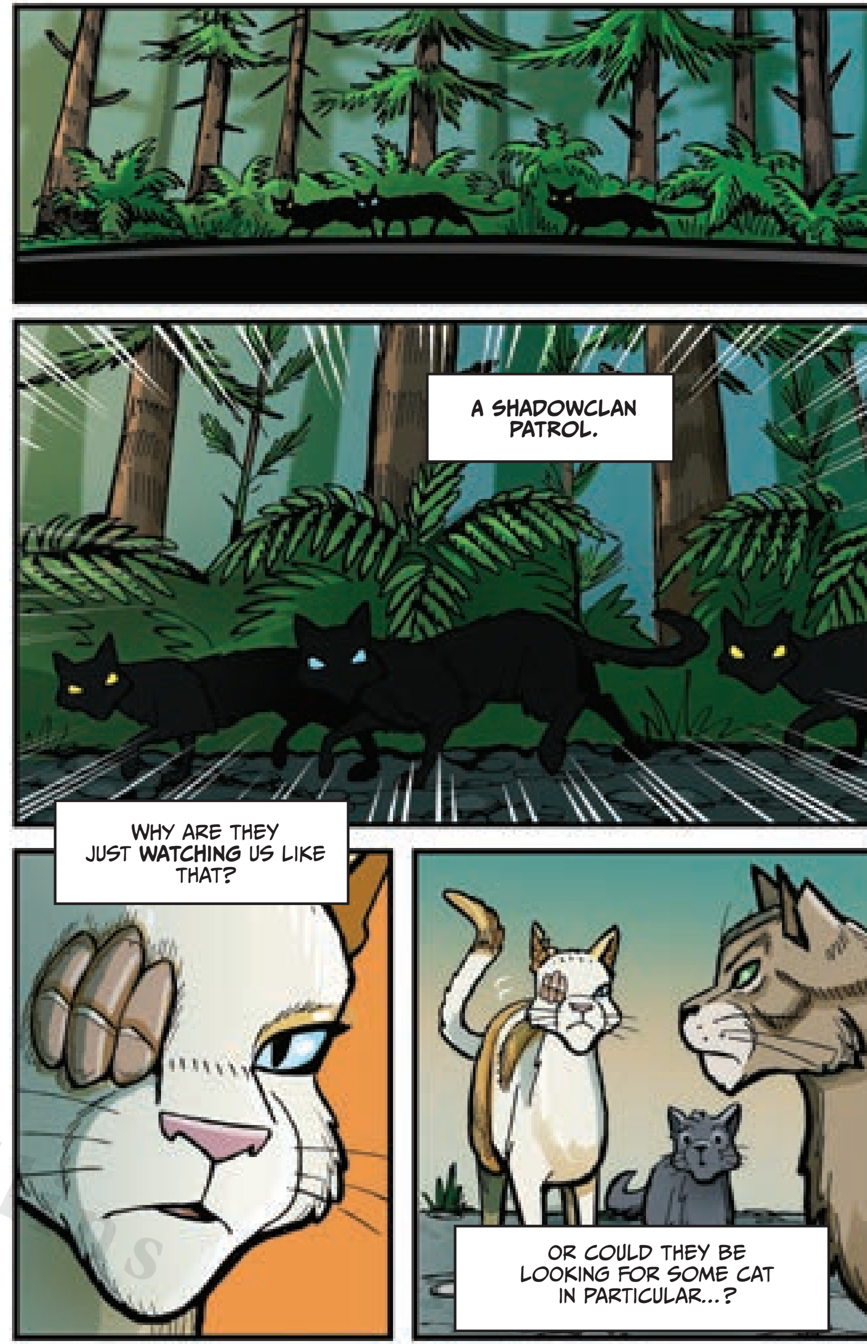

IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT STRIKING, THOUGH. YOU HAVE TO BE **NIMBLE.**
NOT GETTING HIT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS ***HITTING.***
HERE, WATCH THIS. WE'LL SHOW YOU A **DODGE...**
THAT **BRIGHTHEART** CAME UP WITH ALL ON HER **OWN!**
WOW! REALLY? OKAY!
READY?
SEE?
SHE RAN RIGHT PAST ME!


BRIGHTHEART TAUGHT THAT MOVE TO THE REST OF THE CLAN WHEN WE WERE GETTING READY TO FIGHT SCOURGE AND HIS MANGY ROGUES.
THAT WAS AMAZING!
IT'S TIME FOR HIS FIRST **BORDER PATROL.**
DESPITE THE SLOW START, I THINK RAINPAW HAS GREAT POTENTIAL.
ALONG THE WAY, WE RUN INTO LONGTAIL AND HIS NEW APPRENTICE, SOOTPAW.
THIS **THUNDERPATH** IS THE BORDER BETWEEN OUR TERRITORY AND ***SHADOWCLAN'S...***
...WHICH IS WHY WE **MARK** THIS SIDE OF IT. TO WARN THE SHADOWCLAN CATS AWAY.

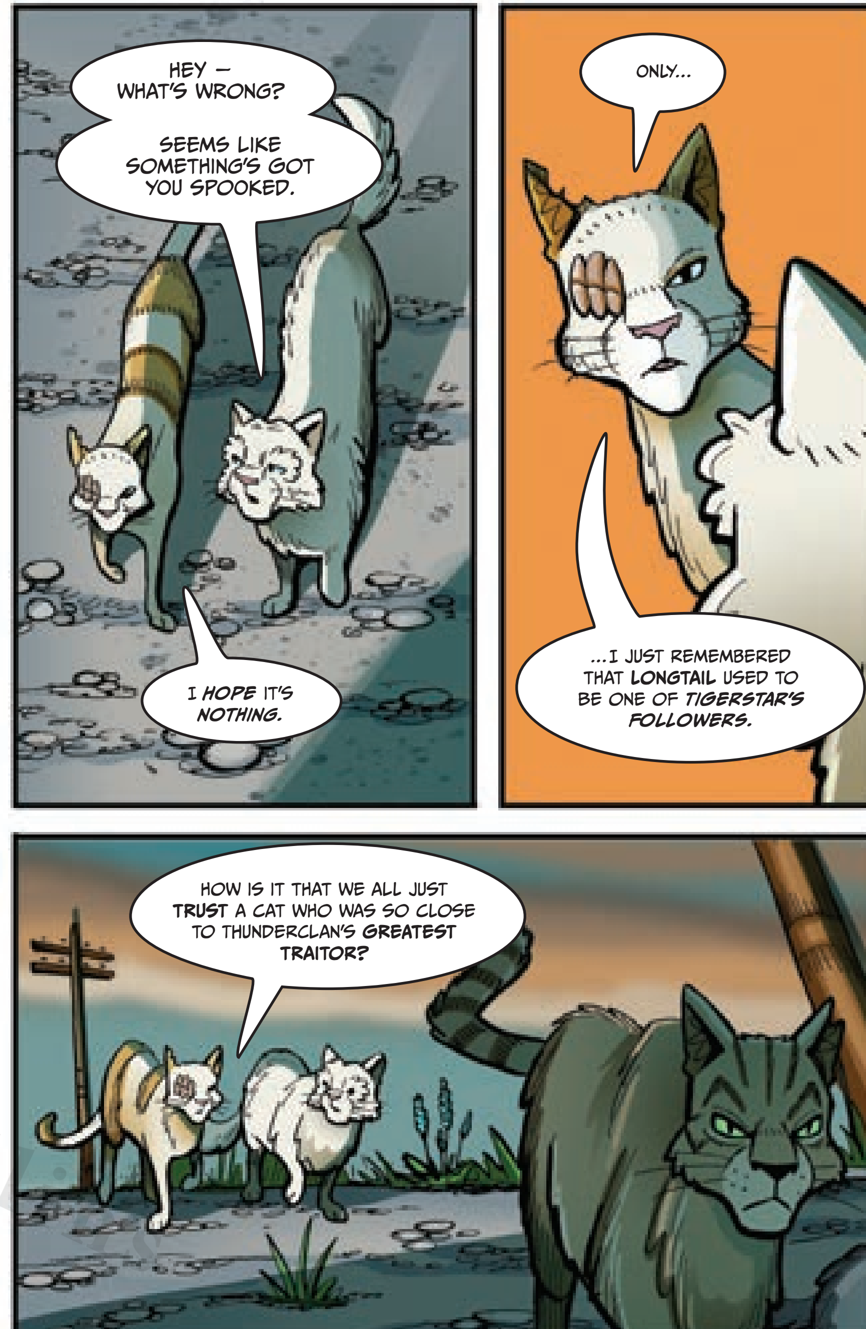

HUH — I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY WALKED ON A THUNDERPATH BEFORE. IT'S —
— OW! WHAT'RE —
VRROOOM
WHOA!
WOW, THAT WAS... REALLY BIG, AND... REALLY LOUD...


YOU MUST ALWAYS BE CAREFUL OF THE MONSTERS THAT USE THUNDERPATHS.
ALWAYS.
BECAUSE IF YOU'RE NOT, THEY WILL SQUASH LITTLE APPRENTICES FLAT.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
YES, LONGTAIL!
WHAT'S THAT SMELL?
THAT'S NOT A THUNDERPATH MONSTER, IS IT?
ALL THE CLANS HAVE DIFFERENT SCENTS.


THAT'S WHAT SHADOWCLAN SMELLS LIKE.
SHADOWCLAN SMELLS DISGUSTING.
THEY MUST BE WEIRD!
EH... THEY'RE NOT SO BAD.
NOT ALL OF THEM, ANYWAY.


A SHADOWCLAN PATROL.
WHY ARE THEY JUST WATCHING US LIKE THAT?
OR COULD THEY BE LOOKING FOR SOME CAT IN PARTICULAR...?


SO. AS I WAS SAYING...
...THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF THUNDERPATH MONSTERS. SOME ARE FAST, SOME ARE SLOW...
BUT THEY CAN ALL SQUASH YOU. GOT IT?
YES, LONGTAIL!


HEY — WHAT'S WRONG?
SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING'S GOT YOU SPOOKED.
I HOPE IT'S NOTHING.
ONLY...
...I JUST REMEMBERED THAT LONGTAIL USED TO BE ONE OF TIGERSTAR'S FOLLOWERS.
HOW IS IT THAT WE ALL JUST TRUST A CAT WHO WAS SO CLOSE TO THUNDERCLAN'S GREATEST TRAITOR?


BUT... BRIGHTHEART, LONGTAIL HAS **PROVEN** HIMSELF.
AND **HE** CHOSE THUNDERCLAN. **HE** CHOSE TO JOIN ***US.***
WHERE IS THIS COMING FROM?
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN WORRIED ABOUT HIM BEFORE.
I KNOW.
I KNOW.


I — IT'S — HARD TO EXPLAIN.
IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S ***DANGER*** NEARBY.
MAYBE IT'S LONGTAIL. MAYBE IT'S SHADOWCLAN.
MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING ELSE.
I JUST FEEL LIKE THINGS ARE CHANGING.


A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP HELPS A LOT.
BUT IT TURNS OUT I'M NOT THE ONLY THUNDERCLAN CAT WITH SUSPICIONS.
YEAH, WELL, I DON'T APPRECIATE ALL THESE ACCUSATIONS!
ESPECIALLY WHEN I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG!
LOOK, THORNCLAW, I **KNOW** THAT BIG SQUIRREL I CAUGHT YESTERDAY WAS ***STILL HERE*** LAST NIGHT.


BUT I WOKE UP BEFORE SUNRISE AND CAME TO GET IT, AND IT WAS ***GONE!***
SO ***YOU*** MUST HAVE TAKEN IT, BECAUSE ***YOU*** WERE GUARDING THE CAMP ALL NIGHT —
AND YOU ***KNEW*** I WANTED AT LEAST HALF OF IT!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
EATING A **WHOLE SQUIRREL** BY YOURSELF WHEN EVERY OTHER CAT'S ASLEEP?
IT'S NOT RIDICULOUS! IT'S ***GREEDY!***
I'M TELLING YOU, I DIDN'T TOUCH ANY SQUIRREL LAST NIGHT!


NOT YOURS, *NOT ANY CAT'S!*
YEAH, WELL, WE'LL SEE WHAT FIRESTAR HAS TO SAY ABOUT THIS!
YOU'RE GOING TO WASTE FIRESTAR'S TIME WITH YOUR MADE-UP NONSENSE? HOW MOUSE-BRAINED *ARE* YOU?
WHAT A GREAT WAY TO START A MORNING.
SPEAKING OF GETTING MORNINGS STARTED, WHERE'S OUR APPRENTICE?
HEY! RAINPAW!
TIME FOR TRAINING – LET'S GO!


SO! WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD WORK ON TODAY?
IS IT TIME TO START TEACHING RAINPAW HOW TO HUNT IN TREES?
BRIGHTHEART?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I DON'T...
...I DON'T FEEL RIGHT


MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO TO THE **MEDICINE DEN**? LET CINDERPELT TAKE A LOOK AT YOU?
INSTEAD OF HUNTING?
BUT I PROMISED I'D HELP WITH RAINPAW'S TRAINING.
WELL, IF CINDERPELT SAYS NOTHING'S WRONG, THEN YOU'LL COME JOIN US. YEAH?
YEAH... I GUESS.
"I DO FEEL REALLY WEIRD."


ALL RIGHT... I THINK WE'RE DONE HERE.
WELL? IS ANYTHING WRONG?
NO, NO, NOT AT ALL. A LITTLE BORAGE AND YOU'LL BE FINE.
YOU SHOULD COME BACK IN A FEW DAYS, THOUGH, SO I CAN EXAMINE YOU AGAIN.
OH— OKAY. WHY?
I'D JUST LIKE TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR SYMPTOMS. DON'T WORRY, AT THIS STAGE IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL TO FEEL STRANGE AND NAUSEATED...
OR EVEN JUST NERVOUS AND UNSETTLED.
EXCUSE ME?
"AT THIS STAGE" OF ***WHAT?***


I SAID NOT TO WORRY!
A *LOT* OF SHE-CATS FEEL APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE DANGERS OF THE FOREST...
...WHEN THEY'RE *EXPECTING KITS.*
I'M... I'M...
GOING TO BE A MOTHER! YES!
CONGRATULATIONS!
I SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY SPLIT BETWEEN FEELING EXCITED... SCARED... AND ANXIOUS ABOUT WHAT CLOUDTAIL'S GOING TO SAY.
I GUESS I'M ABOUT TO FIND OUT.
BRIGHTHEART?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I KEPT WAITING FOR YOU TO COME AND FIND US, BUT...

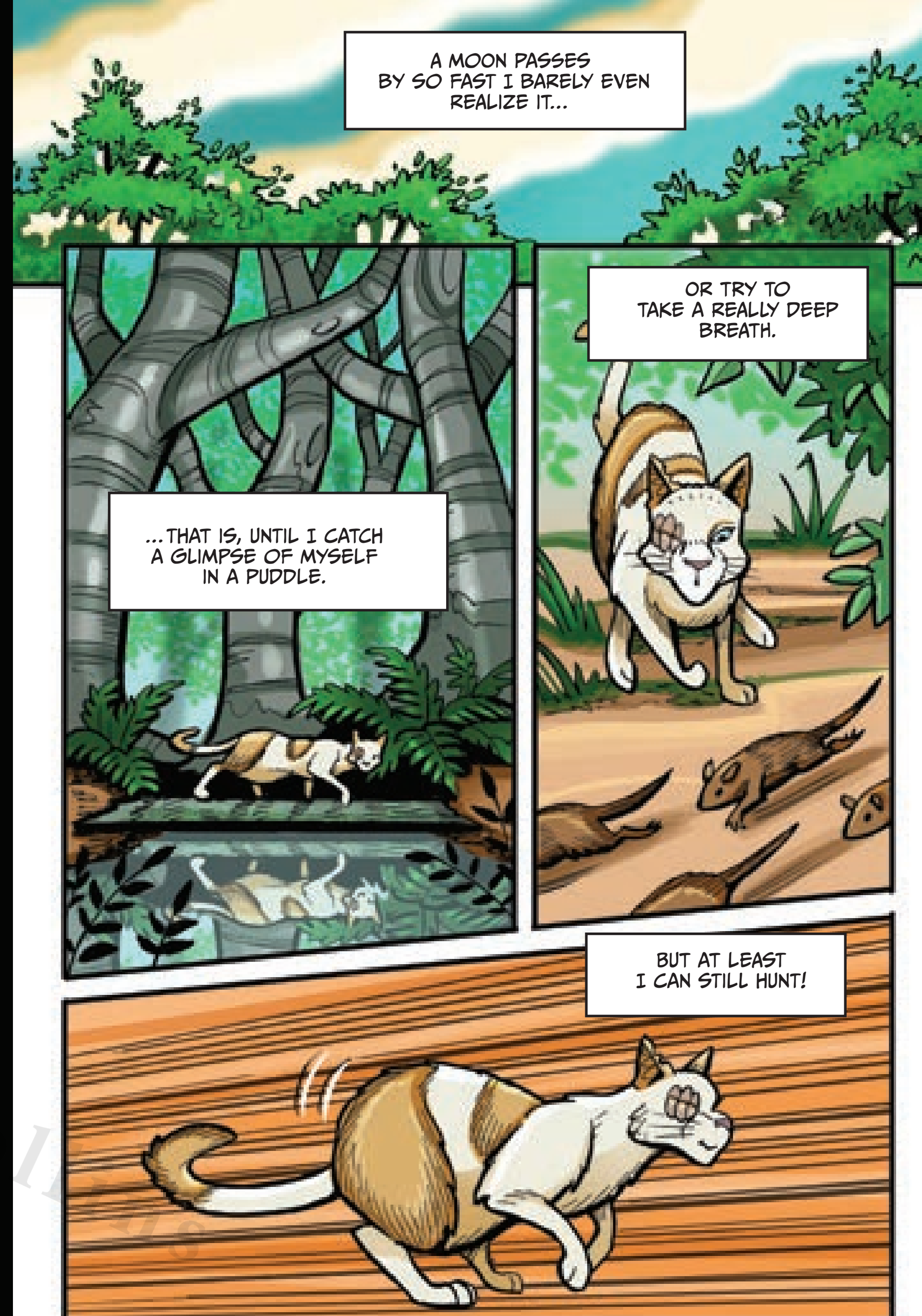

...BRIGHTHEART?
YOU'RE *SCARING* ME.
CLOUDTAIL, YOU'RE... WE'RE...
WE'RE HAVING *KITS!*
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I *CAN'T BELIEVE IT!*
I HOPE YOU CAN **BELIEVE** IT, BECAUSE IT'S *HAPPENING.*
ARE YOU **OKAY?**
BRIGHTHEART, THIS IS THE HAPPIEST I HAVE **EVER BEEN!**


IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG FOR THE WORD TO SPREAD.
IT'S ALL SO OVERWHELMING.
MY MOTHER IS THRILLED.
I AM SO HAPPY FOR YOU BOTH!
YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE SUCH WONDERFUL PARENTS!


CONGRATULATIONS, YOU TWO!
BRIGHTHEART, IT'S GOING TO BE GREAT HAVING ANOTHER MOTHER IN THE NURSERY WITH ME!
DON'T WORRY, I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW!
THIS IS WONDERFUL NEWS, BRIGHTHEART, CLOUDTAIL.
KITS ARE THE FUTURE AND STRENGTH OF THUNDERCLAN.
CONGRATULATIONS.
I FEEL LIKE... I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE EVERY MOTHER FEELS THIS WAY.
BUT I THINK OUR KITS ARE GOING TO BE SPECIAL.
ABSOLUTELY.
AND WE'RE GOING TO PROTECT THEM. NO MATTER WHAT.


HERE— NO, COME ON, THIS WAY.
THAT BRANCH?
YES.
TRUST ME, IT'S PERFECT.
OH, WOW, YOU'RE RIGHT.
THIS **IS** PERFECT.
WHEN I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON, I WAS SCARED...
...BUT NOW THAT I ***DO*** KNOW — I FEEL ***GREAT!***
FULL OF ENERGY.
GOOD. WE'RE BOTH GOING TO NEED IT.
YOU THINK SO? YOU THINK OUR KITS ARE GOING TO BE LITTLE TERRORS?
NO WAY TO KNOW.
I'VE BEEN HOPING THAT AT LEAST ONE OF THEM IS A LITTLE SHE-KIT.
I THINK IT'D BE NICE TO HAVE A ***DAUGHTER.***
WELL, I THINK... WHETHER WE HAVE SHE-KITS OR TOMS...
...THEY'RE GOING TO GROW UP TO BE THE BEST HUNTERS IN THE WHOLE CLAN.
WITH US AS PARENTS, HOW COULD THEY NOT?

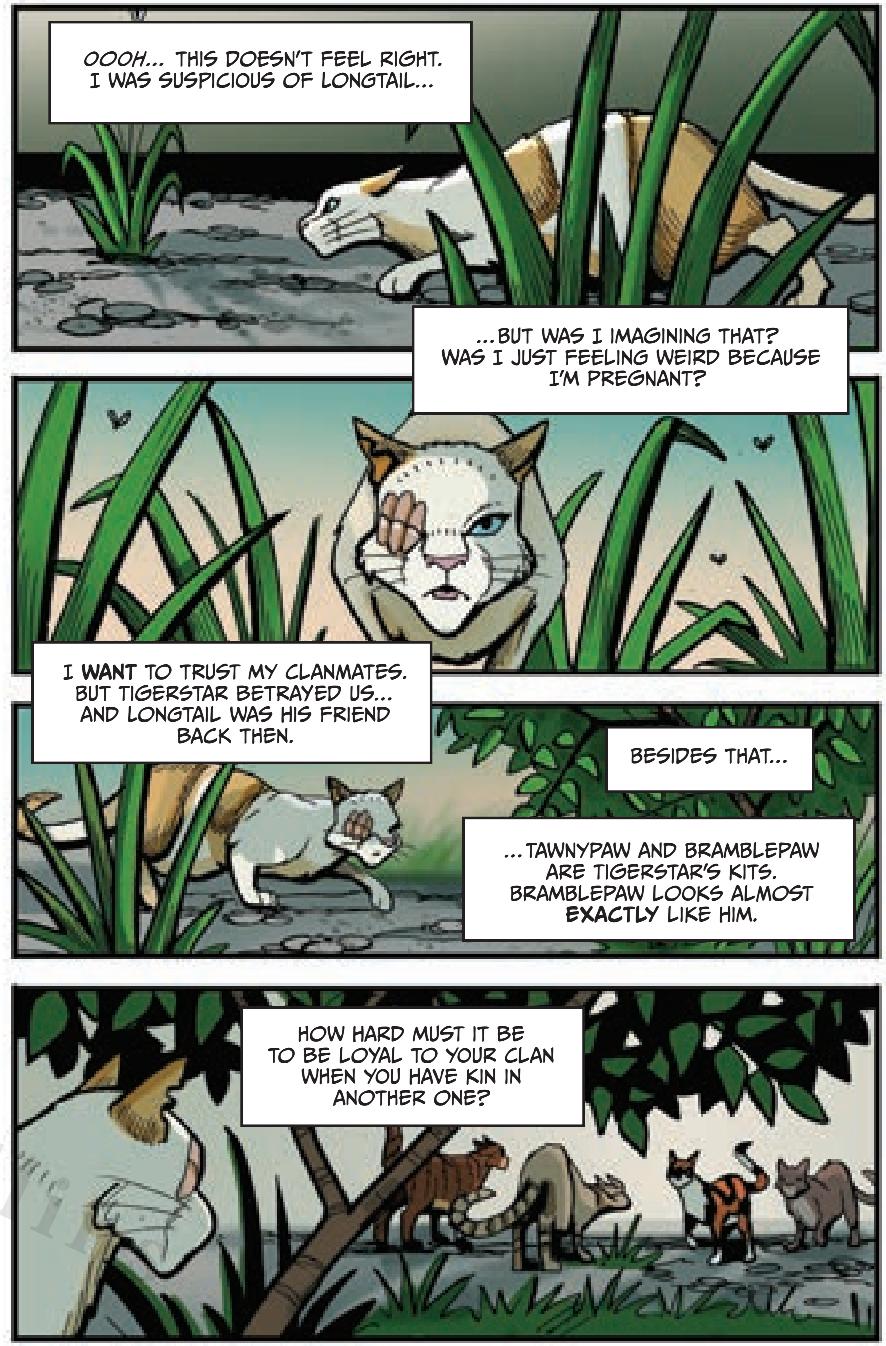

THEY'LL WANT TO PRACTICE BEFORE THEY'RE OLD ENOUGH TO LEAVE CAMP, YOU KNOW.
I THINK WE SHOULD LET THEM HUNT YOUR TAIL.
YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I HATE HAVING MY TAIL PULLED, DO YOU NOT?
HAHAHA... I DO KNOW THAT, YES.
AH, I WON'T MIND.
NOT IF IT'S MY OWN KIT PULLING IT.
IN JUST A FEW MOONS, WE CAN TEACH OUR KITS TO CLIMB THIS TREE.
THEY'LL BE ABLE TO CLIMB ANY TREE IN THE FOREST.


A MOON PASSES BY SO FAST I BARELY EVEN REALIZE IT...
...THAT IS, UNTIL I CATCH A GLIMPSE OF MYSELF IN A PUDDLE.
OR TRY TO TAKE A REALLY DEEP BREATH.
BUT AT LEAST I CAN STILL HUNT!


UH-OH
STARCLAN ABOVE — !
K-THUD
COME BACK HERE — UHFF
AARGH, WHY CAN'T I —
WHUMPFF


ALL RIGHT.
ALL RIGHT, FINE.
FINE.
MAYBE THIS GREAT BIG BELLY HAS THROWN MY BALANCE OFF...
...BUT THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH MY LEGS.
THEY'LL STILL TAKE ME AS HIGH AS I NEED TO GO — BELLY OR NO BELLY.
WHO'S THE BEST JUMPER IN THUNDERCLAN?
BRIGHTHEART, THAT'S WHO!


HMM HMM HMM... BEST JUMPER IN THE TREES...
HMM HMM HMM... CATCH BIRDIES WITH EASE...
HMM HMM HMM... BRIGHTHEART, IF YOU PLEASE...
HUH?
I **RECOGNIZE** THE CATS LONGTAIL AND BRAMBLEPAW ARE TALKING TO.
OAKFUR AND TAWNYPAW.
FROM **SHADOWCLAN.**

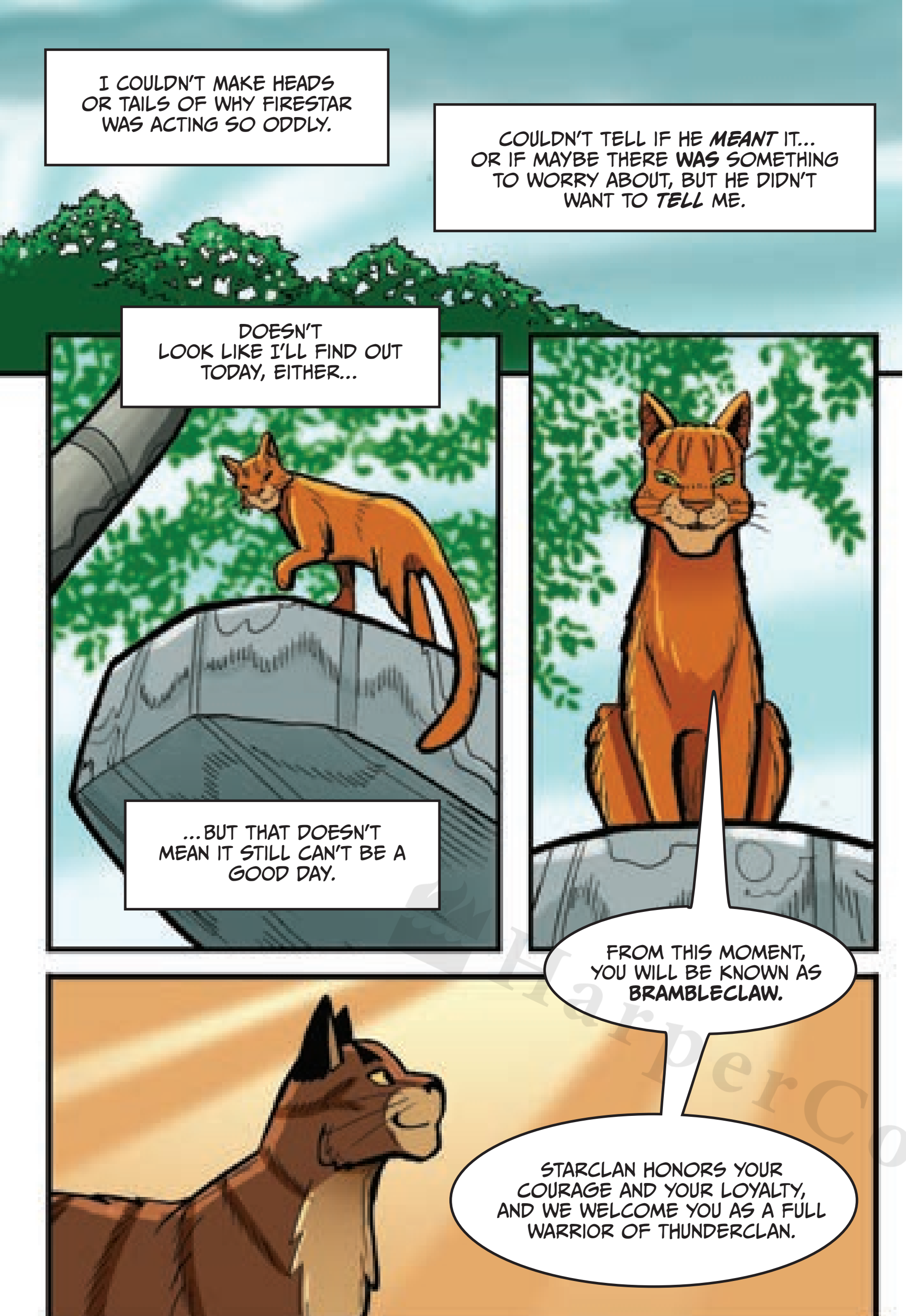

OOOH... THIS DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT. I WAS SUSPICIOUS OF LONGTAIL...
...BUT WAS I IMAGINING THAT? WAS I JUST FEELING WEIRD BECAUSE I'M PREGNANT?
I **WANT** TO TRUST MY CLANMATES. BUT TIGERSTAR BETRAYED US... AND LONGTAIL WAS HIS FRIEND BACK THEN.
BESIDES THAT...
...TAWNYPAW AND BRAMBLEPAW ARE TIGERSTAR'S KITS. BRAMBLEPAW LOOKS ALMOST **EXACTLY** LIKE HIM.
HOW HARD MUST IT BE TO BE LOYAL TO YOUR CLAN WHEN YOU HAVE KIN IN ANOTHER ONE?


THIS IS HORRIBLE. I LIKE LONGTAIL AND BRAMBLEPAW.
BUT WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I LIKED TIGERSTAR, TOO.
AND FIRESTAR'S GOING TO MAKE ME A WARRIOR SOON!
OH IS HE? WELL...
...I BET I'LL GET TO BE ONE BEFORE YOU DO!
THE APPRENTICES ARE LOUDER THAN THE WARRIORS.
– BORDER –
– PREY –
CAN'T QUITE MAKE OUT WHAT LONGTAIL AND OAKFUR ARE SAYING...
...JUST BITS AND PIECES. THEY COULD MEAN ANYTHING. IT COULD BE A TOTALLY INNOCENT CONVERSATION. IT PROBABLY IS.


BUT I THINK I SHOULD TALK TO FIRESTAR ANYWAY.
FIRESTAR... MAY I HAVE A WORD?
...AND I SAW THEM TALKING TO OAKFUR AND TAWNYPAW, THE SHADOWCLAN CATS.
I COULDN'T HEAR EXACTLY WHAT THEY WERE SAYING, BUT...WELL, IT MADE ME NERVOUS.
WHAT IF LONGTAIL OR BRAMBLEPAW TURN OUT TO BE LIKE TIGERSTAR? WHAT IF THEY BOTH DO?


DON'T WORRY, BRIGHTHEART. HAVE FAITH IN YOUR **CLANMATES.**
THAT'S THE REAL STRENGTH OF A CLAN. **FAITH.**
BOTH IN **STARCLAN...** AND IN EACH OTHER.
NOW, IF YOU'LL PARDON ME, THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF.
IS THAT IT? "HAVE FAITH"?
FIRESTAR!
WE NEED TO DECIDE ON HOW TO REPAIR THOSE HOLES IN THE ELDERS' DEN.
I SAID WE SHOULD STICK WITH THE BRANCHES, AS USUAL, BUT THORNCLAW HAS SOME MOUSE-BRAINED IDEA ABOUT WEAVING GRASS TOGETHER.


I'M SURE WHATEVER YOU THINK IS FINE.
FIRESTAR?
I'M SORRY, GRAYSTRIPE, BUT I'VE GOT TO GO AND...
...PATROL.


I COULDN'T MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OF WHY FIRESTAR WAS ACTING SO ODDLY.
COULDN'T TELL IF HE *MEANT* IT... OR IF MAYBE THERE **WAS** SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT, BUT HE DIDN'T WANT TO *TELL* ME.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I'LL FIND OUT TODAY, EITHER...
...BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT STILL CAN'T BE A GOOD DAY.
FROM THIS MOMENT, YOU WILL BE KNOWN AS **BRAMBLECLAW.**
STARCLAN HONORS YOUR COURAGE AND YOUR LOYALTY, AND WE WELCOME YOU AS A FULL WARRIOR OF THUNDERCLAN.


BRAMBLECLAW!
BRAMBLECLAW!
BRAMBLECLAW!


DID HE **SERIOUSLY** JUST NAME TIGERSTAR'S SON... ***BRAMBLECLAW?***
I'M STILL THINKING ABOUT IT THE NEXT MORNING.
BUT BEFORE HE BECAME TIGER***STAR***, HE WAS TIGER***CLAW***!


DOES THAT NOT STRIKE YOU AS A ***TERRIBLE*** IDEA?
GIVING TIGERSTAR'S KIT — WHO ALREADY LOOKS JUST LIKE HIS FATHER — A NAME SO CLOSE TO HIS FATHER'S WARRIOR NAME?
HE **MIGHT** WANT THUNDERCLAN VTO ACCEPT THAT BRAMBLECLAW IS TIGERSTAR'S SON, AND THEN — WELL — GET OVER IT.
MAYBE THE NAME IS PART OF THAT.
LOOK, I DON'T NECESSARILY TRUST LONGTAIL, BUT I ***CAN'T*** BELIEVE ANYTHING BAD ABOUT BRAMBLECLAW!
HE'S PROVEN THAT HE'S NOTHING LIKE HIS FATHER.


CLOUDTAIL'S RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
I DON'T WANT TO THINK ANYTHING BAD ABOUT BRAMBLECLAW.
TAKE TODAY. BRAMBLECLAW WAS **EXHAUSTED** AFTER SITTING VIGIL LAST NIGHT AS A NEW WARRIOR...
BUT HE STILL WANTED TO GO ON PATROL THIS MORNING.
THAT SEEMS LIKE DEDICATION TO THE CLAN TO ME.
>SIGH<
I CAN'T STOP FEELING UNEASY. I DON'T KNOW WHY.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THERE WASN'T ANY FRESH-KILL ON THE PILE THIS MORNING. AGAIN. MAYBE I'M JUST HUNGRY.


THE PILE WAS EMPTY?
THAT'S WEIRD. THERE WAS PLENTY THERE LAST NIGHT.
THERE'S A SQUIRREL! THERE'S A SQUIRREL!
OOH, THERE SURE IS!
HAH!


OOF — WHOOPS
BRIGHTHEART!
THUMPSSSH
ARE YOU OKAY? ARE YOU HURT?
NO. I DON'T THINK SO. I JUST...
...MY BELLY'S GETTING SO BIG, IT'S HARD TO BREATHE WHEN I'M RUNNING.
I'VE GOT YOU.
WHY DON'T WE GO BACK TO CAMP NOW?


UGH. THIS IS STUPID.
I'M A WARRIOR! I HAVE TO HUNT FOR THE CLAN!
YEAH, BUT YOU JUST SAID IT YOURSELF — YOU'RE PREGNANT.
THAT...
THAT SHOULDN'T...
>SIGH< IT SHOULDN'T MATTER.
EVER SINCE I LOST MY EYE, I'VE WANTED TO PROVE THAT I'M EVERY BIT AS GOOD A WARRIOR AS I WOULD'VE BEEN WITH BOTH EYES.
NO CAT THOUGHT I COULD DO IT.
BUT I PROVED THEM ALL WRONG.
YOU DID.
YOU'VE PROVEN THEM WRONG OVER AND OVER.
BUT NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO RELY ON THE REST OF THE CLAN. THAT'S WHAT BEING PART OF A CLAN MEANS, ISN'T IT?
CARING FOR EACH OTHER?